

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /073 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9207
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY, OVIP (CLIFFORD, CLARK M.)
SUBJECT: REACTION TO THE CLIFFORD MISSION

1. MR. CLIFFORD'S ACTIVITIES DURING HIS FIRST FULL DAY IN ATHENS CAPTURED THE MEDIA TODAY (FEBRUARY 19). HIS MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND LATER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS WERE THE FEATURE STORIES ON THE RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS AND PROMINENT HEADLINE MATERIAL IN THE MORNING PRESS. A SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S FEBRUARY 15 LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER, WHICH MR. CLIFFORD DELIVERED, WAS RELEASED BY THE GOG AND WAS DESCRIBED BY MUCH OF THE MEDIA AS BEING A "WARM" PERSONAL MESSAGE. (NOTE: PER DISCUSSION WITH GOG THE SUMMARY DID NOT MENTION THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER OF JANUARY 17). COMMENTS BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR. CLIFFORD SUBSEQUENT TO THEIR SUBSTANTIVE TALKS YESTERDAY (SENT BY USINFO) WERE ALSO REPRINTED

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IN DETAIL.

2. SOME OF THE REPORTING FOCUSED ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER, SAYING THAT WASHINGTON IS NOW REVIEWING US POLICY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. FOR INSTANCE, INDEPENDENT KATHIMERINI BANNERED "PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM CARTER TO MR. CARAMANLIS - WASHINGTON'S POLICY NOW UNDER

REVIEW - FOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES" AND PRO-GOVERNMENT ACROPOLIS HEADLINED "AMERICA IS WILLING TO ASSIST ON THE AEGEAN AND ON CYPRUS -- CARTER REVIEWS THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES." A FEW NEWSPAPERS POINTED TO THE DIFFERENT WAY IN WHICH THE PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY AND THE PRIME MINISTER TREATED THE SUBJECT OF NATO IN THEIR BRIEF COMMENTS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING. THEY NOTED THAT WHEREAS THE PRIME MINISTER, IN HIS REMARKS, INDICATED THAT THEIR DISCUSSIONS HAD TOUCHED ONLY "IN PASSING ON ISSUES PERTINENT TO THE RELATIONS OF GREECE WITH NATO AND THE NEW STATUS OF THE AMERICAN BASES IN GREECE," MR. CLIFFORD HAD GIVEN NATO GREATER PROMINENCE. THE COMMUNIST PRESS MADE MOST OF THIS ANGLE.

3. COMMUNIST (KKE-INTERIOR) AVGHI'S FRONTPAGE LEAD ARTICLE BEGAN, "DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY, MR. CLIFFORD EXERCISES PRESSURE FOR THE COHESION OF NATO -- MR. CARAMANLIS: THE SUBJECT TO VIMA CLAIMED IN ITS HEADLINE THAT "MR. CLIFFORD WILL HAVE NEW CONTACTS IN ATHENS AFTER ANKARA AND NICOSIA" AND ALSO PUT IN A DIG SOUBT NATO: "HE INSISTS ON THE SUBJECT OF NATO".

4. INTERWOVEN IN SOME OF THE STORIES WERE REPORTS FROM BRUSSELS THAT TURKEY WOULD "VETO" GREEK EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH NATO, SUGGESTIONS OF DISCOMFORT THAT AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD HAD INVITED CLERIDES BUT NOT KYPRIANOU TO A DINNER SCHEDULED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NICOSIA FOR CLIFFORD, AND CONCERNING TURKISH PREMIER DEMIREL'S COMMENTS ON CLOSE US-TURKISH RELATIONS AND THE EMBARGO. KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, VISITS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS01637
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
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Line Count: 100
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Message ID: cb60f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Retention: 0
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Subject: REACTION TO THE CLIFFORD MISSION
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, GR, TU, CY, (CLIFFORD, CLARK M)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
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